



Volume 1 Issue 3

November 30, 2005



U S A R M Y

USAG Schinnen Tri-border News Notes



Tri-border Thanksgiving Feast



Photos by: Sylvia Bowron

Top: Antoine Ford enjoys his dinner and shows off his support for his daddy . Below: Volunteers served a bounty of food to those who turned out for the Tri-border Thanksgiving Feast Nov 21.

By Laurri Garcia

Unaccompanied and single service members from throughout the Tri-border area, as well as family members of deployed service members attended a free Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 21, at the International Inn on Headquarters Joint Forces Command Brunssum, The Netherlands.

Hundreds turned out to enjoy the food and fellowship sponsored by JFC Brunssum Air Force and Navy elements, AFNORTH Army Battalion, Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base and U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen.

This event's success is based solely on the efforts of volunteers and contributions from the Tri-border community.

"We had a great turn out and everyone seemed to really enjoy the food, said Melissa Broadwater, one of the many volunteers who gave of their time to make this event happen."

The free Thanksgiving feast is an annual Tri-border community effort that focuses on those who might not take the time to fix a traditional Thanksgiving meal for themselves and ensures they know they are appreciated and remembered during the holiday season.. "This is a great event, said Lt. Col. Rick Richardson, Commander U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, it shows the pride and sense of community we share here in the Tri-border area."

"We had approximately 200 people come out to eat and about 15 volunteers who helped us cook, said Broadwater. At one point I was afraid we were going to run out of food, but that didn't happen, there was more than enough and everyone left full and happy."



Commander's holiday message



As the holiday season approaches we have so much to be thankful for; our family, our friends, and the opportunity to spend the season in a wonderful country getting to know new people and experiencing different holiday traditions.

As many of you know, serving your country, particularly this time of year, can be a difficult and lonely time. The service of our men and women in uniform and their civilian counterparts is

essential to our country and our way of life. Deployments and separation are just some of the challenges today's service members face

Here at U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen we are blessed to celebrate the season in a safe, comfortable environment surrounded by people who care.

As you reflect on the past year, be proud of your dedication and professionalism, but don't forget those who aren't as fortunate. Keep them close in your thoughts, hearts, and prayers.

I extend to you my heart-felt thanks and appreciation for a job well done. We have an array of success stories from 2005 to be proud of; President Bush and Queen Beatrix's visit to Limburg, the successful implementation of our strategic plan, Operation Market Garden, the Army Community Service and School Age Service accreditation, the implementation of the Standard Garrison Organization and our memorable transition from the 254th Base Support Battalion to U.S.

Army Garrison Schinnen. These are just a few of the countless events and achievements that we have to be proud of.

I urge each of you to take a moment to reflect on your personal achievements and the success of this garrison. Each of you exemplifies why our motto "Your Community of Choice" rings so true.

Enjoy this time with your loved ones. It is my hope each of you will emphasize to your family and those around you their significance in your life and the importance of their presence in your success. Just as I hope this message conveys that thought to each of you.

Keep safety first and foremost in all you do and finally I wish you many blessings, much peace, and continued happiness today and all year through. Happy holidays.

Rick Richardson

Lt. Col. U.S. Army

Commanding

The Women of the JFC Protestant Chapel invite you to our monthly program night! Monday, December 12, 7:00 pm, Top Floor, JFC Chapel.

The theme of the program will be sharing Christmas Cookies, Warm Cider/Tea/Coffee, & treasured memories from Christmases Past.

For more info or if you need childcare, please call 045-527-4131 or e-mail

stucindy@aol.com

Please come and join us!

Schinnen Bowling Center

On Saturday 3 December don't miss...

Breakfast with Santa

Santa Claus drops in to eat with the kids, starting at 10 a.m.

What a Treat!



On Friday 16 Dec. Join us for a Christmas Party in the Memories Lane Lounge with free finger foods. Starts at 4 p.m. followed by Pick-Your-Price Cosmic Bowling at 6 p.m. Draw a chip and pay what's on the chip, from free to \$2.50/game.

Drinking, driving in The Netherlands

The Netherlands Law Center

Let's face it; alcohol is part of everyday European life. Instead of a Starbucks, we find breweries on street corners. Wine is acceptable with every meal.

As a result, soldiers stationed here may find themselves at the bottom of many a glass. However, such opportunity does not negate our responsibility to drink responsibly.

Do not drink and drive is the rule—not the exception! According to Article 8 of the Dutch Traffic Law it is forbidden to drive a vehicle (including riding a moped or bicycle) if you are under the influence of alcohol.

In The Netherlands, you are under the influence when a breathalyzer test shows more than 220 micrograms of alcohol per liter of breath or a blood alcohol test shows a level of alcohol higher than .5 milligrams of alcohol per milliliter of blood, which is just half the UCMJ criminal prosecution threshold.

Dutch authorities will stop a person for erratic driving or may stop a driver at a random alcohol checkpoint.

What does this mean for the soldier, family member or DoD civilian who gets stopped? When ordered by the police, a breath analysis test is compulsory. Failure to submit will lead to criminal prosecution and immediate revocation and confiscation of the driving license.

If the outcome of the initial breath analysis test is positive, you will be taken to the police station or K-Mar headquarters for a more detailed breathalyzer test. You will be tested twice, to rule out an error of the machine.

Finally, Dutch authorities are authorized to demand a blood sample to further a Dutch criminal investigation. What can happen if you test positive beyond the Dutch legal limit depends on your level of intoxication and your military or civilian status.

For servicemembers, Dutch authorities will notify and turn you over to the Military Police, who can suspend your license from 90 days to a year depending on the circumstances.

The Netherlands Legal Office will then request a release of jurisdiction for military action. Punishment can

range from an Article 15 to a court-martial under the UCMJ. Furthermore, depending on a soldier's rank, a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand (GOMOR) may be issued.

Finally, in more serious cases, the Dutch may keep jurisdiction and prosecute you to the full extent of the Dutch law.

For civilians, Dutch justice authorities always have full jurisdiction to prosecute. Your case may be handled in one of three ways: a direct fine, an out-of-court settlement (fine), or prosecution before a Dutch criminal court.

Moreover, your license is likely to be confiscated, as well as suspended.

The Dutch authorities take drinking and driving as seriously as our police back in the United States. Enjoy your time here, but do so responsibly.

Do not drink and drive. And if your backup plan involves a horse, wait before you saddle up, partner, because riding a horse while under the influence is against the law too!

CSM Receives top honors



By: Laurri Garcia

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Rusch was presented the Army Legion of Merit at the USAG Schinnen monthly awards ceremony Nov. 16.

Rusch received the award for exceptionally meritorious service as Command Sgt. Maj. Western Sector U.S. Military Processing Command.

Rusch was instrumental in the establishment of an enlistment processing facility in the Las Vegas area which helped Army recruiting efforts.

"This is a very prestigious award, not one that is given every day, and we are honored to have Command Sgt. Maj. Rusch as part of our USAG Schinnen team," stated Lt. Col. Rick Richardson, Commander, USAG Schinnen.

Rusch who served at USMEPCOM from March 2003 to July 2005 arrived at USAG Schin-



Atrium Medical Center Heerlen (AMCH)
Maternity Ward Appreciation Luncheon
held 26 October 2005 at the AMCH

USAG Schinnen Commander recognizes area medical center

Lt. Col. Rick Richardson, U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen Commander, recognized the staff of the Atrium Medical Center Maternity Ward in Heerlen Oct. 26, with a certificate of appreciation for their on-going efforts in providing care to Tri-border area families and their support of the OB tours for expectant parents.

The event was arranged by the USAG Schinnen Army Community Service New Parent Education and Support Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Foster and Mark Boom.

American Spouses Club Scholarships

American Spouses' Club will be giving out 10,000 dollars in scholarships this year. We will be honoring graduating seniors, dependants in continuing education and spouses. Applicant must have a current and valid U.S. ID card.

The parent or spouse must be a member of the American Spouses' Club by February 1st to qualify and submit an application. Scholarships will be awarded in the spring at a minimum of 500.00 per scholarship.

For membership information and applications e-mail jll1507@hotmail.com. Details of application requirements will be available in January and posted in our monthly newsletter or can be obtained by e-mailing tcmuldoon@hotmail.com

Winter Driving Quiz

1. If your car is covered with snow, the minimum you should do before driving is:

- Brush off the windows, clear a good peep hole on the driver's side, and let the defrosters do the rest as you drive.
- Brush off the windows and thoroughly clear a space 30 cm (one foot) square to enable you to see out the front and back windows.
- Clear all snow off windows, roof and hood, front and rear lights, and scrape the ice off all windows.

2. Below -20 C the following condition does NOT occur:

- Tire chains cease to be effective for traction.
- Sand ceases to increase traction.
- Snow tires lose their ability to bite into snow.

3. When you get stuck on ice or hard packed snow do NOT:

- Spread sand under the tires.
- Gently rock the car back and forth by shifting from forward gear to reverse using the brakes to hold the vehicle between shifts.
- Apply pressure on the gas, keeping your wheels straight, and move out of the situation as quickly as possible.

4. If you don't have ABS and must stop quickly in icy or snowy conditions:

- Apply strong, steady pressure to the brake pedal and don't let up.
- Pump your brakes.
- Slam your foot on the brake pedal at once.

5. If you go into a skid on ice:

- Apply the brakes to slow yourself down.
- Over steer to compensate for the direction of the skid.
- Take your foot off the accelerator and declutch or shift to neutral.
- All of the above.

Answers to Winter Driving Quiz

1. c.

Clean all snow and ice off all windows. Also remove loose snow from the hood and roof to prevent it from blowing up on the windshield or drifting over the back window as you drive. Don't be a peep hole driver, and ensure all windows are defrosted before starting out.

2. c.

Snow tires do not lose their effectiveness at low temperatures. But remember they are designed to help you on unpacked snow and are little help on ice or hard packed snow. Tire

chains and sand give you traction at temperatures closer to the freezing mark, but not at very low temperatures. Always approach ice or hard packed snow with care.

3. c.

If you apply too much power you will just spin your wheels. Rather, use the "easy does it" approach when starting on icy surfaces. Clear away snow from around the tires and create traction. Rocking the car allows you to increase the distance traveled with each rock.

4. a.

But stop short of locking your wheels. The best defense is to leave a greater distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you, and to reduce your speed to decrease your stopping distance. Slamming your brakes could lock the wheels and produce an uncontrolled skid. However, with anti-lock brakes (ABS), c is a valid answer.

5. c.

Do not put on your brakes. Follow your natural impulse and steer to keep the car going in its original direction, but don't over steer. When you feel the car regaining traction, start to straighten your wheels. Be prepared to handle a skid in the opposite direction.

International Tour of Homes

Sponsored by American
Spouses' Club

&

International Spouses' Club

11 DEC 2005

1:00PM – 7:00 PM

Visiting 10 Homes

Open to NATO ID

Cardholders & Guests

No children please

For Tickets e-mail

[tourofhomes@richardson-
family.net](mailto:tourofhomes@richardson-family.net)

POST OFFICE LOCATIONS AND HOLIDAY SEASON OPERATING HOURS

The 90th Postal Company, 4th Platoon Schinnen will extend its hours for your holiday convenience from **15 Nov – 23 Dec 05:**

Operating hours

MTWTF 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thur 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sat 8 a.m. to Noon

HOLIDAY MAILING DATES

APO customers are urged to mail their holiday cards and presents to friends and relatives in the Continental United States as early as possible. APO customers mailing deadline are as follows:

SAM parcels November 18

PAL parcels December 02

Priority & Registered parcels December 09

First class & Registered cards/letters December 09

Express mail December 21

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

The JFC Brunssum Chapel Community
presents

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

December 10 & 11

at 2 p.m.

in the JFC Brunssum Theater.

Come see how the Herdmann Kids,

“the worst kids in town”

find out the true meaning of Christmas

and help the towns people re-discover

the Christmas message.

Contribution will be accepted at the door.

For more information call 046-442-5211.

New Parent Education & Support Program

HOME VISITS:

Personal visits to your home for childbirth preparation,

Breastfeeding, postpartum/newborn care, infant development, parenting and disciplining your child. Call for an appointment today!!!

PLAY MORNINGS:

Join us every Thursday morning from 9:30 - 11:30 in the Sports Center at Schinnen.

Once a month -BABY GOODS EXCHANGE!!!

Swap infant and toddlers stuff with other families during play group(17 Nov, 22 Dec, 26 Jan & 23 Feb).

OB ORIENTATION:

Learn about giving birth in the Netherlands/Germany and about your community resources. Next dates: 6 Dec & 7 Mar 2006 — 10:00-12:00 at the GK clinic conference room.

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP:

Join us to learn more about breastfeeding. Meets once a month on the 3rd Wednesday at the ACS conference room at Schinnen— 10:00—11:00 (16 Nov, 21 Dec, 18 Jan & 15 Feb)

HEERLEN HOSPITAL TOURS:

English lead tours of the hospital. Transportation provided from Schinnen. 12:00-16:00 — Next tour Feb 2006. Registration with NPESP Mandatory.

Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

Dec. 2-Jan. 1: *European Christmas Market* at Grote Markt, Sint-Katelijneplein and Vismarkt in the center of Brussels (BE) with 240 stands, ice-skating rink, rides and lots more.

Dec. 3-4: *Christmas Fair* at Nekkerhal in Mechelen (BE). Open: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 3-6: *Christmas Fair* at Beursgebouw, next to the central train station, in the center of Eindhoven (NL). Open every day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: 8 Euro.

Dec. 8-10: *Christmas at Castle Cannenburg*, located in Vaassen (NL). The rooms of the 18th century mansion are beautifully decorated for Christmas. The tables are set and give the impression of guests expected for a festive dinner any moment. A *Christmas Market* is located around the castle. Open: Thursday and Friday, 12:30-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 8-11: *Outdoor Christmas Fair* at "Heerlijkheid Mariënwaerd" Estate near de town of Beesd (NL). Entry: 8 Euro. Open: Dec. 8-10, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 9-10: *Christmas Market* through the center of Orange town Buren (NL). Open: Friday, 4-10 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.

Christmas Fair at Keukenhof Estate near Lisse (NL). Open: Dec. 9, 4-10 p.m. and Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Entry: 5 Euro.

Christmas Antique and Curiosa Market in the rooms of Castle De Renesse on Lierselei 30 in Malle (BE). Open: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dec. 9-30: *Christmas Market* at Groenplaats in the center of Antwerpen (BE).

Dec. 10-11: *Flea Market* at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: 5 Euro.

Dec. 12: *Christmas Market* in the center of Neeroeteren (BE). Open 4-11 p.m.

Dec. 13: *Candle Night* in Gouda (NL). Thousands of candles are lit in the windows of the beautiful town hall and surrounding houses in the center of the city. The highlight of the evening is the lighting of the candles in the huge Christmas tree at 7 p.m. at the square.

Dec. 13-18: *Christmas at Castle Middachten*. The castle near the town of De Steeg (NL) is beautifully decorated for Christmas and opens its doors for the public. A *Christmas Market* can be found in the castle's outbuildings. Entry: 8 Euro. Open: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Dec. 14-18: *Christmas Market* in the center of Leuven (BE).

Dec. 17-18: *Dickens Christmas Fest and Christmas Market*. The center of Deventer (NL) is converted into a city out of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

Through Dec. 20: *Christmas Market* in "Fluweelengrot" (Velvet Cave) on Daalhemmerweg 27 in Valkenburg (NL). A unique Christmas Market in a

winter wonderland fairy tale theme. Open in November on weekdays, 2-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Open in December on weekdays, noon-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: 3.50 Euro; children 1.75 Euro. Information: 31 (0)43-6090110.

Through Dec. 23: *Christmas Market in the majority of German cities*.

Christmas Market around the town hall in the historic center of Aachen (GE). Open daily 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Christmas Market at several locations in the center of Cologne (GE).

Christmas Market in the beautiful town of Monschau (GE). Only open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 2-8 p.m.

Through Dec. 31: *Christmas Market in a Cave*, an attractive fair at Gemeentegrot (cave) in the center of Valkenburg (NL). Open on weekdays, noon-9 p.m. and on weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: 3.50 Euro; children 1.75 Euro.

Through Jan. 8: *Winterland* at Vrijthof in the center of Maastricht (NL). The square is transformed into a large ice-skating rink. There is an old-fashion steam carousel and stands with glühwein, hot chocolate and winter food. A *Christmas Market* is scheduled in the same square and surrounding streets through Dec. 26.

EMERGENCY! Do you know who to call?

EMERGENCY AT HOME: If you are confronted with an emergency at home and you need the FIRE DEPARTMENT, an AMBULANCE, or the LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES, call 1-1-2. If you dial 1-1-2 you will be connected to a central operator. The operator will want to know which emergency service you need. The 1-1-2 operator will then connect you to another operator who will respond to your emergency. Give all information requested. When the emergency service operator asks for an address you can either give them your full address (street name, house number, and city or town) or give them the postal code (four numbers and 2 letters) and the house number. Stay on the line until all questions have been answered. **IF SECONDS COUNT: DIAL 1-1-2.**

NON-EMERGENCY call to the police: If you have something to report to the local police authorities which is not an emergency you can call 0900-8844.

Unit Mail Room Hours

Mondays thru Friday

9 to 10:30 a.m.

&

Noon to 5 p.m

Holiday Saturday

Schedule

**Nov. 19 & 26, Dec. 3, 10, 17,
& 24 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

JFC Alliance Theater

Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. The Man. Starring Samuel L. Jackson, Eugene Levy. Rated PG-13. 83 min. A case of mistaken identity forces federal agent Derrick Vann and dental supply salesman Andy Fidler to team up as they speed through the streets of Detroit to pull off a sting operation and solve the murder of Vann's former partner.

Dec. 3, 1 p.m. Tim Burton's Corpse Bride. Voices of Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham-Carter. Rated PG. 76 min. Set in a 19th century European village, this stop-motion, animated feature follows the story of Victor, a young man who is whisked away to the underworld and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride, while his real bride, Victoria, waits bereft in the land of the living. Although life in the Land of the Dead proves to be a lot more colorful than his strict Victorian upbringing, Victor learns that there is nothing in

this world, or the next, that can keep him away from his one true love.

4 p.m. Flightplan. Starring Jodie Foster, Peter Sarsgaard, Sean Bean. Rated PG-13. 98 min. Flying at 40,000 feet in a cavernous, state-of-the-art E-474 aircraft, Kyle faces every mother's worst nightmare when her six-year-old daughter Julia vanishes without a trace mid-flight from Berlin to New York. Already emotionally devastated by the unexpected death of her husband, Kyle desperately struggles to prove her sanity to the disbelieving flight crew and passengers while facing the very real possibility that she may be losing her mind.

7 p.m. The Transporter 2. Starring Jason Stratham. Rated PG-13. 87 min. Retired in Miami Ex Special Forces operative, Frank Martin,

makes a living driving for the wealthy Billings family. He's a huge favorite with their two small boys, but when the kids are kidnapped and injected with a deadly virus, Frank defies the FBI and works tirelessly to get the boys to safety and discover the kidnappers master plan.

Dec. 9-10 – Chapel Christmas Pageant.

Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. Two for the Money. Starring Al Pacino, Rene Russo. Rated R. 123 min. A star college football player, at the top of his game, blows out his knee forcing him to choose a new profession. He winds up getting into the sports gambling business and is recruited by a man who runs one of the best sport-booking operations in the

TRI-BORDER HAPPENINGS

Nov 30 6—8 p.m. C

Christmas Tree Lighting

360-7500

Dec 7 7-9 pm.

USAG Schinnen Town Hall

360-7585

Dec 10 All Day

Cologne Xmas Market

360 7561

Feb 10-12

Valentines week end in Paris

Official Information about this publication.

The Tri-border News Notes is published twice a month. Submissions for publication may be brought/sent to the Public Affairs Office, Room 117, Building 8, USAG Schinnen, Unit 21602, APO AE 09703. Submissions may also be e-mailed to paousag-shi@benelux.army.mil. Items should be created in **simple text** (no art work, borders, columns, etc.) in MS Word using Times New Roman 10 pt. PAO reserves all editorial rights.

Public Affairs Officer: Laurri Garcia, **Editor:** Vacant, **Community Relations Specialist:** Rita Hoefnagels



We are on the web at www.usagschinnen.eur.army.mil